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FRIDAY,
JULY 4, 1952

THE JERUSALEM 8 Pages POST

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Furs J. Wolf

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1 King George Ave., Jerusalem, Tel. 1455

Marginal Column
By "COMMENTATOR"

There are various interpretations of the "Old soldiers fade away" theme: General MacArthur for instance will be the keynoter at next Monday's Republican convention in Chicago. The Taft forces are dominating all key positions including the vital mandates commissions and the smarmier tactics, last used by Taft's father in Chicago, exactly forty years ago, may bring victory to his son. This at least is the hope of a big majority of U.S. politicians: all the Democrats, who assume that they will be able to best Taft, and most Republican regulars.

TAFT has about 500 votes, Eisenhower about 400, and as more than six hundred are needed for the successful candidate, neither is expected to win on the first ballot. Hardly anyone ever did, and there have sometimes been more than a hundred ballots; and the most astonishing things have occasionally happened between the first and, say, the thirty-eighth. Wendell Willkie, a newcomer to American politics, brought a mere handful of votes to the Republican Convention in 1940. Both Dewey and Taft had many more, yet won the Republican nomination. This year the delegations from California, Pennsylvania and Michigan, which are non-committed or have chosen a favorite son, will probably be inactive.

STUDY of the national conventions of the two great American parties would be a fascinating subject for political research. Much has changed, to be sure, since that ambitious day when Warren Harding was nominated in one of those "small smoke-filled otoe back rooms" which have become proverbial in the American political jargon. There will be as much haggling as ever, and the struggle between the two opposing camps may be even more bitter than in recent elections. The argument of the anti-Semites is that the Seafarers cannot win; because his own sources of strength are the states which vote Republican anyway. Eisenhower's main attraction, they believe, is his influence on the casting vote which is decisive.

THE Democrats, however, are much more hopeful now than they were a few months ago. They think that Eisenhower too can be beaten. American citizens have no predilection for generals as presidents: The record of some of them, like Washington, Jackson and Hayes has been good, but others, like Grant and Pierce, were notable failures. And then there were such generals as Carr, Scott, Fremont, Hancock, Weitzel, and Palmer, (hardly remembered nowadays), who were defeated in the presidential race. The Democrats believe that they might again win on a Fair Deal basis, the old recipe of Bryan and Wilson, which F.D.R. used with such expertise. They have explained with some success that the election of General Eisenhower would mean that the chairmanship in the Senate would go to McCarthy, Bridges, Wiley, and that similar members would be given leading posts in the lower house.

THE Democratic Convention is due to take place in Chicago a fortnight after the G.O.P.'s. Anything might happen there, any dark horse might be made a candidate either by acclamation or in one of those small backrooms. The Democrats might even nominate Truman or Eisenhower, though it does not appear likely. It is an extremely tricky business, but infinitely preferable to the elections in which there is but one candidate who invariably gets 90.00 per cent. Jerusalem, July 4.

Balanced Import Draft Reviewed At Cabinet Meeting

Jerusalem POST Reporter

The one-year import programme, the basic outlines of which have already been completed, was reviewed at the extraordinary Cabinet meeting yesterday in Jerusalem. It was a success.

The Cabinet also discussed various current problems, it was understood. No communiqué was issued.

The detailed implementation of the import programme is still being worked out, and the Government intends to table the programme in the Knesset only after the entire blueprint is completed, which may take two or three more weeks.

The plan is to balance completely imports against regular foreign currency income. There will not only be no increase in indebtedness, but possibly a decrease, it is believed.

The programme is to insure continuity of imports and aims to maintain employment in industrial and agricultural production without any interruption. It is to ensure a minimum supply of consumer goods apart from maintaining a sound and active development programme.

Actual programme figures for both commodities to be purchased and the source of income to cover purchases, have not yet been made public. It is understood, however, that about 11,650,000 are to be allotted for current consumption. Most of this sum is for food and fuel (over 11,000,000) and for raw materials for the local market (about 600,000).

Sources of income are: the U.I.A. Independence Bonds, the Grant-in-Aid, non-payment imports, and a small balance from the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

No Double Summer Time

The Cabinet yesterday reversed its decision to introduce double summer time.

An official statement said that the two ministers had taken into consideration the representations by individuals and associations who had called on the Government that double summer time be ended by passing the clock ahead one hour.

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Meetzot HaPoalot
AND
PIONEER WOMEN

See ad Verona by Israel

SHALOM!

Subscription: Tel Aviv, 1000; Givatayim, Tel Aviv, 62-4528; Jerusalem, 9 Rehov Jaffa, Tel Aviv; 5111; 5112-13; 7 HaShiloach St., Tel Aviv.

1 O'CLOCK TEA SUNDAYS

9 Rehov Sha'ar HaShamayim, Tel Aviv.

Social & Personal

The invited group of Israel participants to the Olympic Games at Helsinki left for Scandinavia by El Al yesterday.

Mr. Abraham S. Pataky, member of the Board of Directors of the American Friends of the Wohlwein Foundation, arrived by Air France yesterday.

Mr. Max W. Weigert, chairman of the Hebrew University of the Wohlwein Foundation, arrived by Air France yesterday, for an extended stay.

Mr. Oscar Goss, Economic Advisor to the Israel Treasury to the U.S., will continue his post at Mr. Levy School. Mr. Goss is due to arrive here shortly.

Professor A. J. Brotman, bacteriologist of the University of California, arrived under the U.N. Technical Aid Program.

Professor S. Ondrejka, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, yesterday. He will study Israeli hospitals to see whether they are suitable for South African medical visitors.

Mr. Max Nurock has been invited by the Government to return to Israel from the United Kingdom to review the financial condition of the Government's Tax Free Fund.

Mr. Haim Radin, former Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry, has taken up his new post with the Israel Bank of Agriculture, Ltd., as head of a special financial corporation in charge of investments.

Mr. Yehuda Levy, Head of the Livestock Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, left for Denmark yesterday as a local representative to the International Congress of Cattle Breeders.

Mr. Herzl, Secretary Assistant Vice-President of the Palestine Economic Corporation, returned yesterday from a extended trip to the U.S.

Dr. Gad Bar, one of the founders of the Norwegian Trade Company Norden Israel Ltd., has left for business negotiations.

Professor Isaac Schatz, head of the Dental Ministry Department of the University of Illinois, has arrived in a two-week tour of the institutions of the Ministry of Health and the Dental Association. He is to advise the Hebrew University on the opening of a Dental School.

Mrs. Henrietta Michelman, pianist, Dr. Marc Rosenthal, cellist, have joined the visiting staff of The New Jewish Conservatory and Academy of Music.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Abramson, White Plains, N.Y., are in Israel for a week. Mr. Abramson is a former National Field Director of the U.S.A.

An exhibition of Pictures in American Books and Publications of Professor David Glanz will be opened by Mr. John P. Rhodes, U.S. Vice-Consul in Jerusalem, at the Royal Museum on July 10 this afternoon.

An exhibition of oils by P. Litvinovsky will be opened at the Royal Museum on July 10. (Continued)

The Banquet of the Hakoah Anti-Tuberculosis League will be held in the Cinema House on July 10. The entrance fee is 2.50. An end of the League will be held at the Magdala Hotel on July 8.

A memorial ceremony marking the end of the 100th anniversary service for Dr. David Rabinowitz, the writer, was held last night at Park Hebrew in Jerusalem. Professors Yaakov Klauder, Nechama, Tsvi and Dr. Haim Kadoch, conducted the deceased.

BIRTH

BIRTH AND DEATH-MILAH
MENKEF — To Eliezer, wife of Mr. E. Soffer, on Friday, June 27, 1952 — a son.

ENGAGEMENT
SCHULMAN — AMIAS
The engagement is announced of Alvin Schulman, Toledo, Ohio, to Cynthia Anne London, England.

MARRIAGE
LOREI — PINKELESTEIN
The marriage took place in Tel Aviv between Shirley Lored and Louis Pinkelestein (see Report).

LABROS — STEINHAUER

The marriage took place in Jerusalem on July 1, 1952, between Z. L. Labros (formerly Felix Labros) and Miriam Steinhauser (see Report).

DR. ROSENBAUM — SCHRAMM

The marriage took place in Haifa on June 26, 1952, between Dr. Otto Rosenbaum and Miriam Schramm. See Wedding Report.

THE HEBREW NATIONAL OPERA

TEL AVIV
Tuesday, July 2
PETER TIEVA
Thursday, July 4

"Faust"

Open in 3 Acts by G. F. Handel

with
MARTIN LAWRENCE
of the London Royal Opera in

London, England.

HERZLIA
Tuesday, July 10
8:30 p.m.

Samson & Delilah

Open in 3 Acts (15 weeks)
by G. F. Handel

EDIS DE PHILIPPE
Tuesday, July 10
8:30 p.m.

Three Secrets

2nd week!
Cine Cinema
Tel Aviv

**STEVE COCHRAN
DAVID BRIAN
BREACH THE WALLS
OF FOLSOM PRISON**

2nd week!
Orion Cinema
Tel Aviv

REVIEW OF OPINION IN YESTERDAY'S PRESS
**Israel's Collaboration With the West
Is the Wish of the Majority**

Commenting on the "Daily Express" story "Ha'aretz" (Independent) says that it is more than a little surprising. It only because, if there really were such a gigantic alliance established in Israel, it would have been very difficult to keep it secret. Instead of concentrating on the various fabrications in this story, we should examine the fundamental thesis. Is the policy of the Government has the same of close collaboration with the West and mainly with the U.S. This continues the paper, is undoubtedly true, and it is in the wish of the majority of the people in this country.

There are, of course, those who would prefer that we take a position between the two great blocks, but they have no realistic and constructive alternative to propose, and they act mainly as a brake on the Government's policy rather than demanding a clear alternative policy. There is no room for a third force in the world today, says "Ha'aretz," and all those who do not favour the inclusion of Israel in the Soviet sphere must adopt the Western line. Our military strength is impressive, but in the long run it must be based on a considerable increase in our level of production as well as in our labour productivity. We are still dangerously behind schedule in this respect, but we must improve if we are to succeed in strengthening both our political and military positions.

"Ha'aretz" (General Zionist) believes that Mr. Tisch's behaviour "bordered on high treason," but this must be viewed against the general background of "retreating from our moral values." At the same time the paper charges the kibbutzim with "blackmarketeering" and demands, not for the first time, a radical change in the regime.

**Courts To Recess
On August 14**

The annual court recess will begin on August 15 and end on October 14, it was announced in the Gazette.

The Ministry of Education said yesterday that the duration of the court recess will be extended to 50 days because of the increase in the number of students whose parents have not paid fees demanded by the school. The school had appealed to the Ministry against the director's action.

Religious Services

Babylon begins in Jerusalem at 7:30 p.m. today and ends at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow.

YERUSALEM

Yeshiva Synagogue Tonight, Arva. 8:30 p.m. Tomorrow Shabbat, 8 a.m. Mikvei Yisrael, Tel Aviv. 7:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Shul Yeshiva (Gan Shlomo), Tel Aviv. 7:30 p.m. Tomorrow Shabbat, 8 a.m.

Arava Synagogue, Gan Shlomo, Tel Aviv. 7:30 p.m. Tomorrow Shabbat, 8 a.m. Mikvei Yisrael, Tel Aviv. 7:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

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NEW MINING LAW FOLLOWS DECADES OF GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSESSING ISRAEL'S VARIED MINERAL RESOURCES

MUCH of our early knowledge about minerals in the Holy Land came from Prof. M. Blankenhorn's classical work "Naturwissenschaftliche Studien am Toten Meer und im Jordanthal," which appeared in 1912. Prof. Blankenhorn led three geological expeditions to Palestine in the first decade of this century. The Dead Sea and its district was then the private property of Sultan Abdul Hamid, and Blankenhorn's first expedition was financed by the Sultan's Court; the last one, undertaken on the initiative of Dr. Theodor Herzl, was financed by the Zionist Organization. This expedition included the late Aron Arman, the botanist, and the late zoologist of the Hebrew University—Dr. Ahroni.

Non-Metallic Minerals

A. G.H.—Some extensive prospecting and drilling for oil has been carried out since the end of World War II by the Petroleum Development (Palestine) Ltd., a subsidiary of the Iraq Petroleum Company, and by the writer's Company, and the Jordan Exploration Co. Ltd. The continuation of this work was held up by the Government's decision to introduce a new Mining Law. In Phosphate and Bituminous Limestone.—Of the other non-metallic minerals, phosphates and bituminous limestone, many millions of tons of which exist near Haifa-Hatrun Gulf way between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea, at Nabi Musa (in the same locality), and in several other places, these were thoroughly investigated geologically and chemically for several months in 1938 by Prof. Evans of the Imperial College, London, and his assistant Dr. L. Picard (now Prof. Picard of the Hebrew University), on behalf of the Palestine Mining Syndicate.

The phosphates examined were not of the best quality. The highest content was about 34 per cent, but on the average it was no more than 25-29 per cent. In view of this, and the high cost of transport to the Mediterranean, the question of exploitation did not come into consideration. Moreover, the cost of rock-phosphate of higher grade was then no more than 24 shillings per ton

latter was found by both experts to be chiefly organic and difficult to separate.

Metallic Minerals

The occurrence of three metallic minerals, known in Blankenhorn's time, were: 1. Iron Ore in the north of Wadi Jabbok of Jordan region, which apparently had been exploited in King Solomon's time and later, some 200 years ago, by the Crusaders; Copper Ore near Feinan, south of the Dead Sea, in Trans-Jordan, which had been exploited in King Solomon's time. Giosas said: "Out of these hills you may dig iron and brass." Deuteronomy, VIII; and many impressions were known in the Wadi Arada in the Southern Negev.

2. Manganese Ore was known to occur north of Wadi Bagdad and in Nays near Feinan. Manganese minerals have been also reported near Akaba on the Palestine side in the wadis which traverse the igneous metamorphic rock.

Although little was done regarding the industrial utilization of minerals in Palestine, the country was enriched by the great amount of geological investigation carried out during the Mandatory period by the late G. S. Blake, Geological Advisor to the Palestine Government, who, at the end of his 17 years' career, also produced a geological reconnaissance map of Northern and Central Palestine; and by Prof. Dr. L. Picard of the Hebrew University, whose work and many publications earned him the recognition of foreign experts. Some minor work was carried out by Mr. Blake's successor in the Palestine Government, Mr. S. H. Shaw, who had much less time at his disposal, being entrusted with other work during the war years, and a number of geologists engaged in the oil prospecting work of the Iraq Petroleum Company and the Jordan Exploration Company. The publication of their findings will now be expected.

Phosphate

It should be borne in mind that rock-phosphate of higher quality may also be found in the Negev; and indeed, some samples recently mined show 35-40 per cent. The area over which some millions of tons of rock-phosphate are spread requires considerable time for proper systematic prospecting.

The Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. of Haifa, producers of superphosphate for use in agriculture, have been in great need of this raw material, rock-phosphate which until now they have had to import from Florida and Monroe for the continuous operation of their factory; and more attention has been paid to the immediate need of quarrying and transporting it to Haifa than to the systematic prospecting. It stands highly for the management of the Phosphate Company, Mr. A. Goldfarb and his assistants, and the "Mahmavi Israel" under Dr. Joseph Blumfeld, that a little over a year after the discovery of the phosphate, trucks loaded with 50 tons of rock-phosphate are daily reaching the superphosphate factory in Haifa, although no proper road has been built as yet from the quarry to the asphalted road for a distance of some 15 kilometers.

What are the prospects of a profitable exploitation of the Negev phosphates? Firstly, they are important, of course, as raw material for the superphosphate industry in Haifa. A foreign exchange saving of some \$600,000-\$800,000 per annum is an important item in our present gross scarcity of foreign currency. Next comes the question of the possibility of exploitation of the phosphate rock for export.

It should be borne in mind that rock-phosphate is neither a rare nor an expensive mineral. There is almost no country in the world where rock-phosphate does not occur. Under these conditions, and having a concentrated material having a 35-40 per cent phosphate, (experiments have proved it possible and practicable), there is no reason why the Negev phosphate should not find its share in shipments of phosphate rock to other countries.

Copper Deposit in Arada

Next in importance to the phosphates discussed in the Negev is the extensive prospecting work of the copper deposits in the Wadi Arada undertaken by the "Mahmavi Israel."

The big known copper deposit, described in detail by Prof. Blankenhorn, are situated near Feinan in the south of Trans-Jordan. Dr. Nelson Glueck, former Director of the American School for Oriental Research in Jerusalem, the discoverer of "Ezion-Geber," King Solomon's Sea-port at the Gulf of Akaba, with the imagination of an archaeologist, describes, in glowing words, the busy copper industrial centre of that time with its mining camps, slaves' quarters, furnaces, large slag heaps and caravans of donkeys carrying the metal partly to King Solomon's Phoenician master copper-smith, Hiram of Tyre of the tribe of Naphtali (I Kings 7:46).

Copper impregnations were known in many places in the Southern Negev, spread over a large area, but it was only recently, by systematic geological surveys, prospecting and drilling that it has been proved that copper occurrences in the Negev are not limited to impregnations only, or to what is called in mining "poc-

tal" or "veins." The above is taken to determine whether mining

the exploitation of the copper deposits and the use of the copper minerals in the Negev can be started in the immediate future.

2. The occurrence of three metallic minerals, known in Blankenhorn's time, were: 1. Iron Ore in the north of Wadi Jabbok of Jordan region, which apparently had been exploited in King Solomon's time and later, some 200 years ago, by the Crusaders; Copper Ore near Feinan, south of the Dead Sea, in Trans-Jordan, which had been exploited in King Solomon's time. Giosas said: "Out of these hills you may dig iron and brass." Deuteronomy, VIII; and many impressions were known in the Wadi Arada in the Southern Negev.

3. Manganese ore was known in old Palestine in Wadi Dara, near the village Dara in Trans-Jordan, and was reported in the 19th century. The high grade manganese ore was reported to be in the Negev, near Feinan, south of the Dead Sea, in Trans-Jordan.

It is not known whether manganese ore has been exploited in the Negev, or in Trans-Jordan.

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Postmark Washington JUNE 28, 1952



By KENNETH HARRIS

I know that the Americans like to blame their government for everything, but I never thought they would go so far as to pass a law compelling it to keep its hands off the weather. But there it is, passed by the Senate, and now going up before the House of Representatives, a measure which prevents the President from trying to make it rain.

The main purpose of the Bill is to set up a government inquiry into all those private groups who are either trying feverishly to make it rain by artificial means, or who are equally feverishly and by equally artificial means trying to stop the artificial rain from falling. As the Senate Committee, which sponsored the Bill said: "It is high time we found out who is doing what and to whom."

It certainly is. Over in the state of Washington, in the North-west corner of the United States, there is almost a civil war going on — Wets on one side, Drys on the other.

The Wets are the big wheat-growers on Horse Heaven plateau. The Drys are the cherry growers, down in the valleys. Rain in June for the Heavenly Horseromes means bushel after bushel of extra wheat. Rain in June for the Sherrybim means split cherries and split profits.

Three years ago the H.H. hired a platoon of professional rainmakers, who flew through the clouds in planes and seeded them with silver iodide crystals. Result — lashing of wheat, lashing of split cherries.

Overdone
This year the Cherrybim's patience was exhausted. They too hired rain-pros — some say the same ones — who dive-bombed the clouds, not seeding, but over-seeding them, so that the clouds dropped if anything less rain than they would have without any seeding at all.

If you want the "scientific" explanation of this, you can have the one I have been given. Clouds are made up of tiny droplets too small and too light to drop. Seeding with silver iodide introduces nuclei or nuclei around which these minuscule droplets collect until they form a drop with sufficient gravity to drip. But if you overseed, you introduce so many nuclei that these miserable droplets don't know around which one to nucleate, and just stay up there dithering.

Storm Clouds
This civil war between frusters and grainers would probably have gone on in a steady, hearty, clean, kind of way had not nature taken a hand and introduced a complication, which is turning a decent war into a riot. In the past ten days a number of storm clouds have come in over the State from the sea. The sky above Washington is now full of clouds and the over-seeding Cherrybim, who up till now were doing very well, cannot tell which are the Heavenly Horseromes' clouds and which are nature's neutrals. The H.H. of course, are not letting on, so the Cherrybim have nearly bankrupted themselves rushing around in planes and shooting silver iodide into the air from mobile ground generators at any cloud that looks as if it might be about to rain on them.

Drys Have It

Having studied the all-round strategic situation, I think the Drys are going to win. Before this new turn in events, the Wets were getting pretty fed up with their seedling platoon who were not making enough rain to compensate for the dollars they were paid to make it. The rainworkers complained there weren't enough clouds for them to work on.

Also, a highly-placed source in a Dry circle whom I carefully seeded with Scotch, has leaked to me the news that the Cherrybim have a secret weapon. Mr. Hubbard is working with a new chemical which he claims "can dry up a continent."

ON THE AIR

JERUSALEM: 92.5 M.H. THE AVIV, 11A, 11.30 & 12.30 M.

FIRST PROGRAMME

7.30 a.m. Service 4.15 Broadcast 4.45 Radio 5.15 a.m. 7.30 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 1.30 p.m. 4.15 p.m. and 11.00 p.m. 12.30 a.m. 1.30 a.m. 4.15 a.m. 7.30 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 1.30 p.m. 4.15 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 11.00 p.m.

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Ancient Treasures of Judea

LE PALÉOTHIQUES ET LE MÉTALLIQUE DU DÉSERT DE JUDEA.
By René Neuville. Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. (Pendant d'Albert le Prince de Monaco. Monaco, 24 (May 1952). 120 pp. 27s. 6d. net.)

M. René Neuville, French Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul General in Israel, whose recent death is equally deplored in the world of diplomacy and that of learning, has given us a volume, weighty in size and rich in quality, a classic in the best French tradition of scholarship. It is the product of twenty years' labour and thought of the author himself, in addition to supplementary research in petrography and paleontology by experts including Jewish scientists. It contains a complete study of eleven caves and terraces in the Judean Desert, apart from the Qasr el-Kebir in Galilee.

The book gained for M. Neuville the "Bordin" Prize awarded by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. In his preface he gives vivid expression to his affection for the country, of which every path was familiar to him, for "the land of great paradoxes and missions of Mount Moriah and Tophet, where Jesus saw the Light of the World, and where John the Baptist was beheaded, the land where Bonaparte failed, and which was subdued by a handful of Jews."

Neuville's approach to research on Israel is not only motivated by academic interest in a scientific subject, but stems from a deeper French association. In the heart of every Frenchman Terre Sainte strikes chords beyond that of religion. His research is original and basic. He commanded the secret of editorship—the short sketch, which is so often more valuable than long reports. He excelled in composition and had the talent to explain essentials in a concentrated form. His latest book may be compared with the famous work of Garrod-Rate on the Carmel Caves; the present reviewer, indeed, considers Neuville's work superior for its depth of treatment and more mature presentation of his conclusions. It is an altogether admirable product of the French tradition of prehistoric studies.

Geographic Unit
Apart from occasional research on isolated caves, Israel has provided two principal subjects for such studies: the "Carmel Caves" and the "Judean Desert Caves." They constitute together a single geographic unit, complementing each other from the standpoint of geo-morphology and biology, thus providing a convenient base for examining the conditions of existence and climate of past ages. There are not included in the present work all the studies of the author in Israel and elsewhere; it comprises only the collection and augmentation of material on one geographic sector alone, in particular the Cave of Qumran, to which Neuville devoted his chief effort and thought.

The author describes the physical geography of the place and a number of objects from among the thousands of items recovered from excavations, from the early Tigray epoch to the later Bronze ages. A specimen emanating from the period of Israel's mystique is of remarkable artistic craftsmanship, recalling the Magdalian period in France, stone-sculptures from the Zouqia and Ain-Sakhrî caves and

tools of surprising artistic perfection prompt a revision of current conceptions about ancient man in this country. The author endeavours to arrive at some synchronization with the finds at other excavated sites, he has examined the relics of animals and plants which, though pointing to a great variety of species, are themselves, and sometimes revises again his work on the old ones, searching until he discovers veritable gems.

This great contribution to our knowledge of our country is most welcome. It will without doubt serve as a *Vade mecum* to every student of pre-history who wishes to know what has been achieved to date in the Near East, even though the final conclusions may be liable to further adjustment. There is no question that the substantial data, so well clarified and presented in this monumental volume, will retain their value as an outstanding contribution towards the solution of problems surrounding the life of man, animals and plants during the millennia preceding the dawn of history.



Sculpture of a ruminant mammal dating from the Neolithic Age (about 12,000 years ago), found in the Cave of Qumran (Zouqia) in the Judean wilderness.

BIALIK AND THE BIBLE

By JACOB HODESS

SHIRAT BIALIK VERS TINACHE. By A. Avital. Tel Aviv, 1952.

The title of this book may convey the erroneous impression that it is an essay on the spiritual influence of the Bible on the poetry of Bialik. Such an effort would be gratuitous. It is universally admitted that the best and wisest minds in Western civilization have been influenced by the Bible; that the moral, intellectual and literary character of Europe, have, been directly or indirectly due to the Bible. Some of Shakespeare's lines are traced to Biblical inspiration and Goethe has acknowledged his great debt to Scripture.

To expatiate on the influence of the Bible on Bialik, who originally had no double spiritual inheritance, would be presumptuous and superfluous. Burton's familiar lines

Holy Bible, Book Divine
Precious Treasure, thou art
mine to touch me whence I
come,

Mine to teach me what I am
forcibly apply to Bialik as
much as to any of the great
medieval Jewish poets. Bialik himself has told us:

The Bible is always on my table, and I carry it when I travel... I am not apt to dry my eyes in the desert but I am not able to read anything there but the Bible... whatever one should like to say, there are words which have already been said.

From this may be inferred how deeply the intellectual and moral force of the Book had penetrated his poetic soul and coloured his creative work. The Biblical spirit, the secrets of its language, its exultations, its passions and

Exhaustive Compilations

Mr. Avital, who began his exhaustive compilations some decades ago as a teacher in the Hebrew Seminary in Vilna, had a more difficult task. For, Bialik was, after all, a great modern poet whose muse wandered in wide and varied fields, who was unavoidably affected by the literary fashions of the age. The substance of his poetry, as distinct from its quality, had a vast range; the character, tendencies, modes of thought, were secular unlike the sacred contemplation of the medieval masters. To trace all these diverse subjects and moods, to the climatic atmosphere of the Bible is no easy task. It requires close knowledge of both the Bible and Bialik's poetry, but such essential qualifications are not enough. A sensitive appreciation is required of the sounds and allusions in all their variations to discern imaginative concepts of the poet and relate the flowing stream to the Biblical origin. By his careful study and the comprehensive comparisons illustrating the close verbal association of Bialik's poetry with the Bible, Mr. Avital dissects dismember as well as knowledge.

The methodical arrangement, annotations and brief explanatory comments on the poems quoted, with accompanying Biblical texts, reading chapter and verse, gives one a clear insight into the organic connection of Bialik's poetry with Biblical phrasing. Of the greatest educational value for the student, the volume is also of absorbing interest to the general reader who, exhilarated by the poet's quiver of Bialik's verse, is made aware of its Biblical source.

We should like to repeat, however, that the author's method of compilation is not the only one possible. Another method, for example, is to quote the poems of Bialik in their entirety, and then to compare them with the Biblical text, and thus to see what the poet has added to or omitted from the original. This is the method adopted by Dr. Avital, and it is equally valid. The choice is a matter of personal taste.

It is to be hoped that

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